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AERANDRIA

THE RAPID SOULS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Babylonia no Shishi

Volume 01 Chapter 03

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Where can we get lions as pets, too?! :O BUt I can't help but wonder how much food they will consume

– Lacaille

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Chapter 3
The Lion of Babylonia
バビロニアの獅子

EHM...
I...

What is this stench?
It's too dark to make it out, but I think there's something on the altar.
EHM...
THAT IS...
WHO ARE YOU? WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO BE HERE?

GYAAAA!
ECK!
HOW DARE RAISE YOUR VOICE...
...IN THIS SACRED PLACE OF ETERNAL REPOSE?
Ah... m-my legs have run out.

At that moment
I understood precisely why Enkidu brought me there.
That maggot-infested fetid corpse was Enkidu
And
...that boy was Gilgamesh, the one Enkidu wanted to protect...

THAT MAN IS ALREADY DEAD
IF YOU STAY COOPED UP IN HERE, YOU'LL FALL ILL TOO, YOU KNOW?
GO AWAY
THIS IS GILGAMESH'S ORDER
GO AWAY
NO, YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE
I HAVE TO PROTECT YOU
I've made a promise with Enkidu
So I can't leave him alone here

Glare
YOU RUDE INTRUDER! DON'T TOUCH ME!
Chomp
WAH WAIT WAIT!
Clang
Wah! I didn't know I could move that quickly Enkidu again? What a guy.
Throb
Ouch ouch ouch!
Ugh
ENKIDU IS DEAD

THE DEAD DO NOT COME BACK TO LIFE
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT MAY BE, YOU HAVE TO FACE IT.
WHY DID ENKIDU HAVE TO DIE...?!
SWING
NO!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

EVERYONE... KNOWS IT'S MY FAULT...
BECAUSE I...
I... REJECTED ISHTAR !
Ishtar ?
He rejected Ishtar? What does that mean?

Whistle
Glare
SAY
DID YOU
Grrr
EH ..?

RIP THIS INSOLENT PERSON TO PIECES
GRRR
Why are you keeping lions in your palace?!
EEEEK

It'll bite me!
GRR
ROAR!
?!

EH...
PUTTT
Amazing. This is Enkidu's power, too!

WHO IN THE WORLD...
...ARE YOU...?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER
WILL I, TOO...
...LAY DOWN ON THE COLD BED OF DEATH AND ROT ONE DAY, JUST LIKE ENKIDU?
ENKIDU WILL NEVER AGAIN RAISE HIS HEAR AND LISTEN TO MY WORDS...
I WILL NEVER BE REFLECTED IN THOSE EYES AGAIN...

IS THIS WHAT DEATH IS..?
THE TIMES WE FOUGHT TOGETHER SEEMS LIKE A DREAM NOW...
I DON'T WANT THIS! I WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT
HOW COULD I?! I AM KING GILGAMESH, I STAND ABOVE ANYBODY AND ANYTHING ELSE!

*Note: The Babylonian Noah, who survived a mythological flood and escaped death. Ubara-Tutu was the last king of Sumer before the flood.

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOURSELF BEFORE THE KING YOU INSOLENT INTRUDER!
SEIZE HIM!
WAIT A—
CLANG
WAH!
COME ON, GIVE IT UP
YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

GRR
WAIT
LET HIM GO.

THUD
Don't let go so quickly~
AH!
WAH!
OUCH!
YOU TAMED MY LIONS
JUST LIKE EKIDU WOULD.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I'M SIN... MY SURNAME IS—
AH...
SIN HMPF
THE SAME NAME AS THE GOD OF THE MOON YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING
IF YOU DO, I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE
WELL, GOOD SIN BE WITH ME

BE
BE WITH YOU ?
YOUR MAJESTY ! THIS IS TOO SUDDEN!
THIS CITY OF URUK CANNOT EXIST IF YOU ARE NOT HERE!
PREPARE A BOAT I AM GOING ON A JOURNEY TO SEEK UTNAPISHTIM!
PLEASE, RECONSIDER!
YOU RULE IN MY STEAD WHILE I'M AWAY
ISN'T THIS WHY YOU ARE A CHIEF PRIEST?
I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE CRITICIZING MY ACTIONS!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE UTNAPISHTIM IS?!
IT'S NOT CERTAIN THAT HE EVEN EXISTS—

I'VE HEARD THAT THE CHIMAERA OF THE MASU MOUNTAINS* KNOWS
THAT IS WHERE I'M GOING.
*Note... Mountains that guard the rising and the setting sun" in the Epic of Gilgamesh
YES... AND JUST BECAUSE THE TEMPLE PROSTITUTE LET THAT OUTSIDER IN THE ZIGGURAT...
BUT THANKS TO THE LEBANON CEDAR DIKES YOU ERECTED THE DAMAGE WAS MINIMIZED
THE DAMAGE IS QUITE EXTENSIVE

ALL RIGHT
SPEAK UP.
I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED SHAMHAT TO BRING ME HERE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER?
EHM
MAY I ASK—
YOU!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OUT OF TURN?
YOU MEAN "I AND ENKIDU"... IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM, WHO KNOWS IF I WOULD HAVE WON THE WAR OVER THE LEBANON CEDAR...?
THAT'S—
SHE WILL BE STRIPPED OF HER POSITION AS TEMPLE PROSTITUTE AND TURNED INTO A SLAVE
SHE WILL PROBABLY SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE AS A PLAYTHING FOR MEN
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING? SHAMHAT HAS SERVED HER COUNTRY VERY WELL HASN'T SHE?!

IS SHAMHAT THE TEMPLE PROSTITUTE YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?
AH... YES
SHE IS SPECIAL. STRIPPING HER OF HER POST IS IMPOSSIBLE.
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, YOUR MAJESTY...
WE CANNOT LET SOMEONE WHO HAS GONE AGAINST THE GODDESS ISHTAR'S WILL STAY IN THIS ZIGGURAT.
SHAMHAT...

YOUR MAJESTY
I WILL FREE YOU
BUT ACCORDING TO THE KINGDOM'S LAWS,
YOU CANNOT RETURN TO THE ZIGGURAT.
I AM PREPARED TO TAKE ANY PUNISHMENT
BECOME A FREE CITIZEN

AND ALSO,
HOLD A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ENKIDU AND MAKE SURE HIS SOUL FINDS REST.
EH?
EVEN IF IT WAS YOUR SACRED DUTY, YOUR DAYS OF SELLING YOUR BODY ARE OVER NOW
FROM NOW ON, LIVE THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU SO MUCH
YOUR
MAJESTY

Shamhat just smiled without saying anything.

Although I think she wasn't smiling at me

but at Enkidu inside me.

MY KING
IS THERE NOTHING I CAN SAY TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?
Enkidu did not show himself.
I had a vague feeling that it was his way of showing sympathy and consideration.

I'M SORRY TO BE SO SELFISH
BUT I MUST GO NO MATTER WHAT
THEN AT LEAST TAKE SOMEONE A LITTLE MORE RELIABLE WITH YOU...
PRIEST
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU...
THE MORE PEOPLE, THE MORE THEY WILL GET IN THE WAY. I AM HEADED TO A MAGICAL LAND, THE DWELLING OF A MAGICAL BEAST
I WILL HAVE TO PART WITH YOU FOR A WHILE TOO
TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING
I'M COUNTING ON YOU AND I WILL DEFINITELY RETURN.

LET'S GO, SIN

Speak of selfish...
So I'm a newer now
LOOK, SIN.
THAT IS THE CITY OF URUK
HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS
WILL THE FLOW OF TIME CRUMBLE IT TO DUST ONE DAY, TOO? JUST LIKE THAT BEAUTIFUL ENKIDU...
IS THERE SUCH A THING...
...AS ETERNITY?

"What a mess of a King," I thought
But somehow, I couldn't hate him.
EHM...
THAT UTNAPI... PISHTIM... WHAT'S THAT?
THE ONLY HUMAN WHO SURVIVED THE "GREAT FLOOD" OF THE ANCIENT WORLD - THE IMMORTAL UTNAPISHTIM
I WANT TO KNOW HIS SECRET
HE IS HUMAN, BUT HE EARNED IMMORTALITY IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN I WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO DO TO ATTAIN THE SAME
I WILL KEEP OFF DEFYING THE "DEATH" THAT TOOK AWAY ENKIDU...

creak
Gilgamesh was looking up perhaps crying.
But I was silent

Tigris and Euphrates...
They were right at the beginning of the history textbook. I wish I had studied more... Like Leona.
Steer?
This is a river so...
Even if nobody's keeping watch, there's no chance of a shipwreck right?
Yeah.
That wasn't the Leona I've always known.
Leona.
What in the world happened to her?

But no need to worry
I will definitely get you back
Jump

WHAT IS IT?
YOU CAN'T SLEEP?
DON'T MIND ME SLEEP
shake
shake
YOU'RE SHIVERING IN THIS HEAT?
ARE YOU ILL?
LEAVE ME ALONE!

I'VE...
...BECOME A COWARD
...?!
ENKIDU AND I HAVE OVERCOME EVERYTHING... WE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE... HE WAS MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND.
BUT... SLEEP WAS LAYING SO HEAVILY ON HIM
HE WAS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS... UNABLE EVEN TO HEAR MY VOICE... AND I COULD DO NOTHING BUT WATCH IN SILENCE AS MAGGOTS FELL FROM HIS FACE.
IS THIS THE HUMAN FATE?!
I'M AFRAID TO SLEEP AT NIGHT...
I FEEL AS IF I FALL ASLEEP, I WILL NEVER AWAKEN AGAIN... AND I CAN'T STOP SHIVERING...

startle
GILGAMESH
THAT IS WHY...
I JOURNEY, SEEKING IMMORTALITY.
TO PREVAIL OVER THE WEAKNESS IN MY OWN HEART!
Even if his heart was weakened I had no choice but to admit that he was a true king.
Yes beyond all doubt he was the King of legend
Gilgamesh himself.